

December 17, 2010

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re. Docket Nos.: 09-51; 09-47; 09-137; 09-191; 07-52; 04-296; 10-103; 10-56

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for organizing a lunch meeting on December 14 with various leaders from the Asian Pacific American (APA) community. At the meeting were Karen K. Narasaki and Jason Lagria, President and Executive Director and Staff Attorney, respectively, of the Asian American Justice Center (AAJC), Floyd Mori, President of Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), George Wu, Executive Director of OCA, Doua Thor, Executive Director of Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC), Tina Matsuoka, Executive Director of National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), and Cindy Shao, President of Asian American Chamber of Commerce. Also at the meeting were FCC staff members Thomas Reed, Gilberto De Jesus, and Marilyn Sonn.

During our meeting we discussed the following topics:

- Ms. Shao discussed the challenges of local Asian language programming channels owned by Asian Americans who compete with channels that are owned by foreign governments who have more capital and access. Ms. Shao also discussed the need for more resources and information available to the public.
- We all discussed the dearth of reliable data regarding Asian Pacific Americans and their broadband adoption habits. We noted the “model minority” myth of the APA community and how the socio-economic distribution of the APA community is bimodal, with some members doing well, while others, particularly in the Southeast Asian community, face more challenges. We also noted that although there are a few government studies that indicate that Asian Americans are adopting the internet at a higher rate than other groups, the data from these studies are not reliable. The studies do not do surveys in languages other than English and the data is not disaggregated into different ethnicities and language abilities, for example. Since poverty is linked to lack of English fluency and more than half of many Asian communities are limited English proficient, the data may not be accurate.

Additional studies that survey in Asian languages and have sample sizes sufficient to break down the APA community into meaningful categories are needed in order for the FCC to better understand how to increase broadband access and adoption for all members of our community. Ms. Thor, who is a member of the President’s Advisory Commission

on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, mentioned that her commission can be a useful partner that the FCC can work with on this issue.

- Ms. Narasaki discussed the need for greater diversity within all sectors of the telecommunications industry and the power of the internet to leverage technology to deliver information to limited English proficiency individuals in the APA community. Ms. Narasaki mentioned that AAJC, OCA, JACL, and other APA groups were close to finalizing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Comcast Corporation and NBC Universal regarding their proposed joint venture. The MOU focuses on commitments for increasing the inclusion of APAs in many aspects of media diversity.
- Mr. Wu expressed his organization's interest in how broadband internet can help students of all ages and how minority-owned businesses can leverage the power of the internet to their advantage. He also expressed his concern that there is a lack of outreach to the APA community which leads to a lack of awareness of the power of the internet. He and Ms. Shao expressed interest in working with the FCC to increase its outreach, particularly to Asian American entrepreneurs.
- The chairman's Open Internet Proposal was also discussed. OCA, JACL, and AAJC expressed their support of the chairman's efforts to address this issue.
- Ms. Thor and others brought up the need for a multilingual Emergency Alert System and the FCC agreed to follow up.
- Several of the organizations emphasized reforming the Universal Service Fund was a top priority with many of our organizations because of the key role it will play in universal broadband adoption. AAJC expressed its view that the FCC had proper jurisdictional authority for it to enact these reforms. Mr. Mori asked what was happening with the FCC pilot projects and indicated he would like to see the FCC develop more pilot projects and to involve the APA community in the rollout of the programs. Our groups were pleased to hear that the FCC would be addressing this issue in the next quarter.
- Ms. Narasaki, who is a member of the FCC Diversity Advisory Committee, mentioned that it was important for the FCC to be able to institute programs to ensure more equal access for minorities to all sectors of the industry, including ownership and contracting and that the FCC needed to begin the necessary research to lay out disparities that clearly exist. We are glad to hear that in the next quarter Mr. Reed will be working to study disparities in this area.
- Many groups expressed their growing concerns that hate speech is growing in this country. While we all appreciate the right to free speech in this country, we believe it behooves the FCC to study this issue more closely and highlight the hateful language that is becoming more prevalent in this country. Ms. Narasaki noted there was already a request submitted led by Latino groups that AAJC had participated in requesting such a study. We look forward to following up with Ms. Sonn on this issue.

- Mr. Wu mentioned that many of our groups are members of a coalition named the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA), which is a coalition of 28 national APA organizations in the United States. We look forward to working with you and Mr. Reed in coordinating an event in the future where the FCC can conduct more outreach to our community. Every May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and we hope to schedule an event with participation with the FCC then.

Thank you again for taking the time to meet with us and hearing the concerns of the APA community. We appreciate your understanding that our country has an incredibly diverse population and your commitment to learning and meeting the needs of all members of society.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Karen K. Narasaki". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" and last name "Narasaki" clearly legible.

Karen K. Narasaki
President and Executive Director
Asian American Justice Center

On behalf of:
Asian American Chamber of Commerce
Japanese American Citizens League
National Asian Pacific American Bar Association
OCA
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center